



Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

October 29, 2014

Problems Continue in Lewis County Government

Lewis County government leaders must begin addressing weaknesses identified in the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury's annual audit report. Lewis County has developed a negative trend on its audits.

The 2014 audit, which was released today, contains 25 findings, up from 22 in 2013.

Of those 25 findings, 14 were also highlighted last year but appropriate corrective action had not been taken.

Auditors made findings and recommendations in a number of areas including the offices of county mayor, road superintendent, director of schools, trustee, county clerk, circuit and general sessions courts clerk, register of deeds, sheriff, assessor of property, clerk and master, and the parks and recreation department.

The wide variety of problems included fund deficits, cash overdrafts, expenditures that exceeded appropriations, purchasing deficiencies, failure to follow policies, and not separating money-handling responsibilities.

Auditors also found that some county commissioners failed to disclose they were employed by Lewis County prior to voting on budget amendments for the departments where they were employed.

"Twenty-five findings in an audit report is unacceptable, and I'm dismayed that problems seem to be growing in Lewis County," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "I can only hope that newly elected leaders will begin following our recommendations to fix these issues, and the county's Audit Committee will take responsibility for making necessary changes."

To view the audit online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/la/>

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